

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 65 were presented for examination. In the Office Action mailed on April 22, 2004, the Examiner objected to Claims 49 – 63 for being misnumbered and Claim 23 for containing two sentences. The Applicant has corrected these informalities herein. (The misnumbered claims have been cancelled, but for the sake of consistency and to minimize any future confusion, the corrections have been presented above.)

In addition to the above objections, the Examination rejected Claims 8 – 12, 19 – 22, 32 – 36, and 39 – 65 for the following reasons:

Claim 47 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as having no antecedent basis for the feature “recovering a group of quantized gains” in Claim 1;

Claims 8, 10 – 12, 19, 21, 22, 32, and 34 – 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Nishiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,253);

Claims 39 – 42, 45, 48, 49, and 51 – 65 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Iijima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,663);

Claims 9, 20, 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,253); and

Claims 41, 43, 46, and 50 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,663).

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and §103(a). However, in order to place this Application in condition for allowance, the Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims. The Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application to be filed at a later date.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner stated that Claims 1 – 7, 13 – 18, and 23 – 31 are allowed over the prior art of record and that Claims 37 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 37 and 38 have been amended as indicated above.

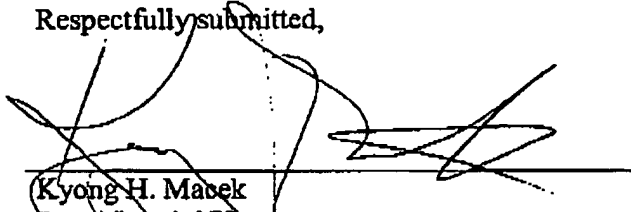
Attorney Docket No. 000426

CONCLUSION

In light of amendments and arguments presented above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the instant claims are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this Application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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